

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the present Amendment. By this Amendment, independent claims 36 and 37 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected claims 36 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Holland, et. al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,166,499). It is respectfully submitted that a review of this reference reveals that it does not anticipate, disclose, suggest or make obvious the Applicants' invention. The Applicants' invention is directed to an improved guard tour monitor system that includes electronic hardware and software for use by patrol guards or officers to monitor desired areas of one or more buildings or facilities. The patrol guard or officer making an inspection or security tour of a facility is provided with a hand-held electronic touch button reader. When the patrol guard or officer reaches a checkpoint during his tour, he touches the reader to a touch memory button at that checkpoint. The button contains pre-programmed information. The touch button reader reads this information, whereupon the patrol guard or officer proceeds with his tour. The checkpoints do not have to be read in a particular sequence in the Applicants' system. Instead, the Applicants' system only requires that a specified visitation frequency be maintained for each checkpoint, such as a visitation once per hour or twice per day. This permits checkpoints to be visited in a completely random order. It should be noted that having a fixed sequence of checkpoints is considered by most security experts to be a poor security practice since it permits others to predict where a patrol guard or officer will be at any given time.

At the end of the tour, the patrol guard or officer downloads the collected information or data into a central computer control station through the use of a mobile downloader, a direct downloader or a modem downloader. Following downloading, the central computer is operable to print reports with respect to the tour.

The Holland, et. al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,166,499) discloses a tour monitoring system that includes a bar code reader, an alphanumeric display, and an alphanumeric keyboard. A patrol guard on a tour enters alphanumeric messages, which are stored in combination with the scanned checkpoint codes on a log. The log is then transmitted to a programming/report generating computer for analysis purposes. The reports are organized with respect to zones, and reports can highlight higher priority checkpoints that were missed. In contrast to the Applicants' invention, the system disclosed in this reference requires that the zones be visited in a predefined sequence. Thus, the checkpoints cannot be visited in a completely random order, as in the Applicants' system.

Independent claim 36 is directed to the ability of the Applicants' invention to produce reports that include graphics that are associated with checkpoint data. Such graphics include photographs, illustrations, maps, or the like. The association of these graphics with the checkpoints makes the Applicants' invention unique. For example, a patrol guard or officer who is unfamiliar with the location of a checkpoint can use the photographs or maps within these reports to locate the checkpoints, thus reducing wasted time and ensuring the accurate monitoring of the checkpoints. In addition, photographs of the patrol guards or officers are associated with the guard's buttons and

can be used to provide positive identification of the patrol guard or officer for additional security.


Independent claim 37 is directed to an independent program that can start automatically and remain active whenever the computer is running. The purpose of this program is to interface with external data collection devices, download the raw data collected by the data collection devices, and store the raw data in the central computer independently of the software that processes, analyzes and reports the data. This architecture permits the segregation of data collection monitoring, data downloading and data storage functions from the data processing, analyses and reporting functions. This approach eliminates the need to operate the entire software package each time a data collection device is downloaded, thus minimizing the use of the computer resources and also permits individuals who are not authorized to access the software to download the data collection devices. Using this method, the security of sensitive data is maintained while permitting any individual to download the data collection devices. In addition, the program can start automatically and remain active whenever the computer is running, thus allowing the Applicants' system to always be operable to accept data. Lastly, the Applicants' system monitors the downloading devices and downloads data whenever a data collection device is inserted into a downloading device and then safely stores the downloaded data in the central computer. After the foregoing occurs, the downloaded data can be processed at a later time by another program that is compatible with the data format.

From the foregoing, it is apparent that the Applicants' system provides a number of features and advantages over the system disclosed in the Holland, et. al.

reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,166,499) and is not anticipated, disclosed, suggested or obvious in view of the aforementioned reference. However, in order to more specifically define the Applicants' invention, by this Amendment, independent claims 36 and 37 have been amended to specifically recite that the checkpoints are non-prioritized permitting information to be gathered in any sequence. In addition, these claims have been amended to include the terms "computer usable" before the term "medium" so as to provide the proper antecedent basis for this latter term. In view of this Amendment of these claims, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable.

In view of this Amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance, and such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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